

GARBAGE GAZETTE

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

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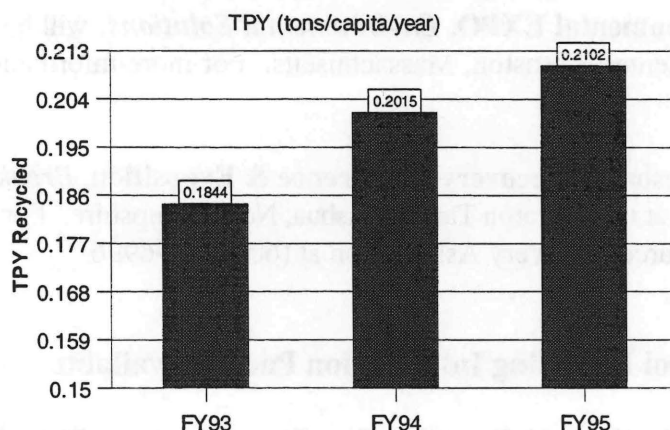
1994/1995 Recycling Rate Slightly Increased

The statewide recycling rate continues to climb in spite of challenges. Data on amounts of MSW reported recycled by municipalities and facilities show recycling increased by approximately 28,000 tons in 1994/1995. The percentage of MSW recycled, however, remained at 23% due to an increase in the MSW disposal rate* which offset the gain in recycling.

Comparing the percapita recycling rate to the rate in 1993/1994 shows a slight increase in recycling for 1994/1995 to 0.2102 tons per person per year (TPY), up from 0.2015 TPY. This increase in the percapita rate occurred in spite of purported increased scavenging and diversion of recyclables when market conditions were at an all-time high.

The challenge now is to continue increasing the recycling and source reduction rate toward the 40% goal set by the legislature for the year 2000. We are amidst planning new initiatives to help municipalities increase their recycling rates and welcome ideas from all recyclers. Please call 424-3365 if you would like to contribute your ideas.

Connecticut MSW Recycling Rates



Connecticut Joins EDF "Complete The Circle" Education Campaign

Connecticut is one of a number of states that has signed on to participate in the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) "Complete The Circle" education campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to educate consumers about the importance of buying recycled products. The program will officially launch in early April with a press conference. The campaign advertisements feature Connecticut's own Joanne Woodward, who appears in radio spots, television advertisements, print ads and a long-format (½ hour) video. Residents who have questions will be provided with an 800 number to call to receive literature describing how they can buy recycled and "complete the circle".

* A comparison of FY94 and FY95 disposal data shows that much higher tonnages were reported buried in the NORCAP and New Milford landfills in FY95. Some of this MSW may have been disposed of at nonreporting facilities in FY94.



Copies of the long-format video will be made available to local recycling coordinators and cable access stations. The video is ideal for high school or adult civic organizations whose members want to know more about what happens to recyclables after they are picked up at the curb. It features footage from a glass manufacturing plant, shows #1 PET bottles being transformed into fleece fabric, takes us inside aluminum and steel processing plants and has footage of the hydropulping process through which paper is recycled. Most importantly, Ms. Woodward provides a guided tour of a local grocery store, highlighting opportunities for the consumer to buy recycled. The video is both informative and entertaining. As Earth Day '96 approaches this educational effort reminds all of us that choosing to purchase recycled products is a way that each one of us can be proactive to help preserve environmental quality. If you have any questions about the campaign, please contact Meg Enkler at (860) 424-3365.

Ceremony Celebrates Success of Fight Against Illegal Dumping

On February 23, 1996 the Department of Environmental Protection held a dedication ceremony at which a sign was unveiled marking one of the former dump sites in Hartford cleaned up through the Department's Stop Illegal Dumping program. Commissioner Holbrook and other state and city officials were on hand to celebrate this important milestone. The cleanup program recently marked its first anniversary. During this time, a total of 114 illegal dump sites have been cleaned up in Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport and Waterbury. The signs are posted to make violators aware that local residents are not going to allow their communities to become a dumping ground, the sign reads:

" This site was once an illegal dump site. The site has been cleaned up with neighborhood support by the Department of Environmental Protection, the Judicial Branch's Alternative Incarceration Program and the City of Hartford, Department of Public Works. If you see illegal dumping call 527-6300."

It is signed by: Sandra Kee Borges, City Manager; Thomas Johnson, Director of Public Works; Judge Aaron Ment, Judicial Branch; Sidney Holbrook, DEP Commissioner and Jacquelyn Pernell, Program Coordinator, DEP. Signs will also be placed at other former dump sites in all four cities participating in the program.

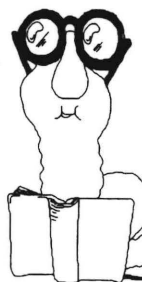
Upcoming Meetings

The New England Environmental EXPO, *Environmental Solutions*, will be held on May 7-9, 1996 at the World Trade Center in Boston, Massachusetts. For more information call (800) 543-5259.

15th Annual Northeast Resource Recovery Conference & Exposition, *Breaking Barriers*, will be held on June 10-11, 1996 at the Sheraton Tara in Nashua, New Hampshire. For more information contact the Northeast Resource Recovery Association at (603) 224-6996.

School Recycling Information Packet Available

CT DEP has just revised its "School Recycling Fact Sheets" series. This informative packet, originally written in 1990, contains information on how schools can: enhance their existing recycling program, start a waste reduction/reuse program, begin composting or vermicomposting and much more! In addition, it provides a listing of resources available from CT DEP, suggestions for field trips, performers who focus on recycling issues and places to call for more information. A copy will be mailed to all 169 municipal recycling coordinators in Connecticut. A limited number of additional copies are available at this time. In August, a copy will be sent to all public and private elementary schools along with the poster contest entry materials.



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